

# Introduction

*Have you ever met someone who does not wish to become the next version of him or herself?* Most of us want to grow. Perhaps that is why we constantly find ourselves seeking life lessons from stories in the movies and literature, from teachers and friends. Is that also why we so often find ourselves giving advice – saying to others what, in truth, we need to hear?

This book will show you how to use your INTUITION to follow fresh new ideas that are all about YOU. Yes, you can have a better life. Don't you want to have suggestions on how to solve difficult problems, to achieve more success, to basically, have fun? Every single one of us makes mistakes – probably, every day. Forget yesterday. How many times have you said, “I knew I shouldn't have done that?” You may say that you don't know the right thing to do; but I'll bet you know the wrong thing! Great ideas are already inside you - in your intuition. All you have to do is listen.

I am a teacher by profession, so the twelve stories in this book are about intuitions I had while teaching. But, they are for all of us who really want to change; they are not just for teachers. They are all true. Each one describes a life changing moment. I have told these stories to teachers, professional adults, and school children of every age – basically to anyone who would listen. When I stood in front of incarcerated individuals five hours a day, for three months, in two different North Carolina state prisons, I told them these stories. Some of them cried. I can't tell if these stories will be moving to you, but what happened in my classroom in each of these experiences was profoundly moving to

at least one student in each case - the student whose life changed in that story.

My personal experience comes from a little over forty years of teaching. About a decade was spent teaching in private schools, and about two decades teaching teachers and consulting in the business sector. In this last decade, I came back to teaching in an alternative high school for emotionally disturbed adolescents for seven years. Following this I gave myself a sabbatical to go back to school for a Ph.D. in urban education, where I wrote a dissertation on *intuition* in education. I mention intuition, because it is central to this book. All twelve chapters deal with ways to leave your old self and leap into a new version of you. And intuition is all about considering something truly new. Your new version is like a diamond with many facets. Which facets will you choose to polish, your: presence, vulnerability, relationships, creativity, sense of wholeness, connection, context, innovation, or inclusion of others?

This book then, is a way to use intuition to help yourself. I have recorded my true stories of how I used my intuition without embellishment or fanfare. I believe they relate to many of us – not just teachers. The times we live in are presenting what may be some of the greatest changes in recorded history. We owe it to ourselves to rise to meet them. The stakes have never been higher. Maybe this is the true “high-stakes testing” we should awaken to. I wonder if we are all being tested to see if we can become *the next version* of ourselves?